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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 2000-2009

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5-2009

LWV Bulletin, May, 2009

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The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area



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LWVWV website: [www: LWVWV.ORG](http://www.LWVWV.ORG)

LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

May 2009 Bulletin

**SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS**

SUMMER FUN

Thanks to Cabell Huntington Hospital for printing Summer Fun. We are once again busy gathering information for the brochure. We will need help counting, bundling, and delivering Summer Fun to area schools, libraries and public agencies. If you can help with any of these tasks, call Julie Damewood at 304-522-2340 or email juliedamewood@earthlink.net.

DUES

Members at the annual meeting voted to increase our dues to \$45 for single members, and \$60 for household membership (2 at one household). Dues may be paid to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, % Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701.

YEAR IN REVIEW – 2008/2009

Here are the major League activities during the past year:

Voters Service

Primary and General Elections

- Letters to candidates asking them to respond to the Herald-Dispatch's online questionnaire. The answers were published both in the newspaper and its website.
- Candidates meetings at Huntington High, Junior League Community Center (2), Southside Neighborhood Organization, Woodlands (2)
- Voter Registration at the Veterans Home, Pullman Square, Chilli Fest
- VOTE activity for children at the library
- Speeches to Head Start mothers, Southside Neighborhood Organization, MU Political Science class
- Information on "Choosing Delegates to National Conventions" and "Tips for Voting"

Action

Local

- Supported the reduction of rates for garbage pickup, if the household subscribes to a recycling program
- Supported an increase in funding for the rehabilitation of the Gen. Jenkins home
- Supported the schools' excess levy

State

- Supported selected election laws
- Supported adding age and sexual preference to the Fair Housing Law and Human Rights Act
- Supported bills to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Opposed allowing coal companies to delay their compliance with water quality standards for selenium

National

- Supported allowing DC citizens voting representation in the House of Representatives
- Supported the Climate Security Act to curtail pollution causing climate change
- Supported adding wilderness areas to the Monongahela National Forest

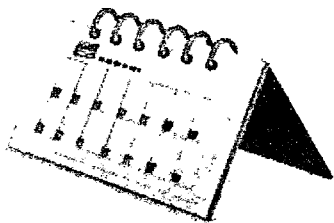
Publications

Summer Fun, Directory of Public Officials and Personnel, Guide to the WV Legislature and Congress

Meetings

- WV Clean Elections Act
- Book review/discussion on *The Political Brain*
- Recycling Forum
- Field Trip to the Cabell County Law Library
- National Popular Vote Compact
- Superintendent of Schools Bill Smith
- Update on the 2009 Legislative Session
- Dr. Harry Tweel, Cabell-Huntington Health Department

CALENDAR



MAY 18 MEETING

We have invited all of Cabell County's state senators and delegates to our May 18, 7 pm meeting at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. We have asked each of them to reflect on the 2009 legislative session, especially highlighting what they think was good and not so good. Also we have asked them to point out present and future challenges for us locally and statewide. After the legislators' presentation there will be time for members of the audience to ask questions. Please ask your friends to come to this important and informational meeting. If you have any questions, you may contact Portia Warner, 304-733-4078.

Quick Facts on Health Care Costs

- Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- ~~Between 2005 – 2006, total health spending~~ increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic

product from 2003 – 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017.

- Spending for home health care increased at a faster pace from 2005 – 2006 (9.9 percent) than any other category of health spending; however, its impact is limited because it accounts overall for only 2.5 percent of total health spending.
- Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.
- Between 2006 and 2007, premiums for health coverage offered by employers increased 6.1 percent, the fourth straight year of declines in the rate of premium growth, from a peak of 13.9 percent in 2003. Even so, this was more than twice the rate of growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.
- Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list (without the original endnotes) is from "A Reporter's Toolkit: Health Care Costs" (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. (Resource provided by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009.)

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household and \$24 for students. To join, send your check to: Ann Spear, Treasure, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

LWV HUNTINGTON AREA Patricia Keller, Editor

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